

**MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 300 of 1949**

**257.248 Dealer license; investigation; report; bond or renewal certificate; dealer plates; stipulation as to service of process; prohibited conduct, application, and classification; expiration; conduct not requiring separate or supplemental license.**

Sec. 248. (1) The secretary of state shall not grant a dealer license under this section until an investigation is made of the applicant's qualifications under this act, except that this subsection does not apply to license renewals. The secretary of state shall make the investigation within 15 days after receiving the application and make a report on the investigation.

(2) An applicant for a new vehicle dealer or a used or secondhand vehicle dealer or broker license shall include a properly executed bond or renewal certificate with the application. If a renewal certificate is used, the bond is considered renewed for each succeeding year in the same amount and with the same effect as an original bond. The bond shall be in the sum of \$10,000.00 with good and sufficient surety to be approved by the secretary of state. The bond shall indemnify or reimburse a purchaser, seller, lessee, financing agency, or governmental agency for monetary loss caused through fraud, cheating, or misrepresentation in the conduct of the vehicle business whether the fraud, cheating, or misrepresentation was made by the dealer or by an employee, agent, or salesperson of the dealer. The surety shall make indemnification or reimbursement for a monetary loss only after judgment based on fraud, cheating, or misrepresentation has been entered in a court of record against the licensee. The bond shall also indemnify or reimburse the state for any sales tax deficiency as provided in the general sales tax act, 1933 PA 167, MCL 205.51 to 205.78, or use tax deficiency as provided in the use tax act, 1937 PA 94, MCL 205.91 to 205.111, for the year in which the bond is in force. The surety shall make indemnification or reimbursement only after final judgment has been entered in a court of record against the licensee. A dealer or applicant who has furnished satisfactory proof that a bond similar to the bond required by this subsection is executed and in force is exempt from the bond provisions set forth in this subsection. The aggregate liability of the surety shall not exceed the sum of the bond. The surety on the bond may cancel the bond upon giving 30 days' notice in writing to the secretary of state and thereafter is not liable for a breach of condition occurring after the effective date of the cancellation.

(3) An applicant for a new vehicle dealer or a used or secondhand vehicle dealer license shall apply for not less than 2 dealer plates as provided by section 245 and shall include with the application the proper fee as provided by section 803.

(4) As a condition precedent to the granting of a license, a dealer shall file with the secretary of state an irrevocable written stipulation, authenticated by the applicant, stipulating and agreeing that legal process affecting the dealer, served on the secretary of state or a deputy of the secretary of state, has the same effect as if personally served on the dealer. This appointment remains in force as long as the dealer has any outstanding liability within this state.

(5) A person shall not carry on or conduct the business of buying, selling, brokering, leasing, negotiating a lease, or dealing in 5 or more vehicles of a type required to be titled under this act in a 12-month period unless the person obtains a dealer license from the secretary of state authorizing the carrying on or conducting of that business. A person shall not carry on or conduct the business of buying, selling, brokering, leasing, negotiating a lease, or dealing in 5 or more distressed, late model vehicles or salvageable parts to 5 or more of those vehicles in a 12-month period unless the person obtains a used or secondhand vehicle parts dealer, an automotive recycler, or a salvage pool license from the secretary of state or is an insurance company admitted to conduct business in this state. A person shall not carry on or conduct the business of buying 5 or more vehicles in a 12-month period to process into scrap metal or store or display 5 or more vehicles in a 12-month period as an agent or escrow agent of an insurance company unless the person obtains a dealer license from the secretary of state. A vehicle scrap metal processor who does not purchase vehicles or salvageable parts from unlicensed persons is not required to obtain a dealer license. A person from another state shall not purchase, sell, or otherwise deal in distressed, late model vehicles or salvageable parts unless the person obtains a foreign salvage vehicle dealer license from the secretary of state as prescribed under section 248b. A person, including a dealer, shall not purchase or acquire a distressed, late model vehicle or a salvageable part through a salvage pool, auction, or broker without a license as a salvage vehicle agent. The secretary of state shall investigate and seek prosecution, if necessary, of persons allegedly conducting a business without a license.

(6) The application for a dealer license shall be in the form prescribed by the secretary of state and shall be signed by the applicant. In addition to other information as may be required by the secretary of state, the application shall include all of the following:

(a) Name of applicant.

(b) Location of applicant's established place of business in this state, together with written verification from the appropriate governing or zoning authority that the established place of business meets all applicable municipal and zoning requirements.

(c) The name under which business is to be conducted.

(d) If the business is a corporation, the state of incorporation.

(e) Name, address, date of birth, and social security number of each owner or partner and, if a corporation, the name, address, date of birth, and social security number of each of the principal officers.

(f) The county in which the business is to be conducted and the address of each place of business in that county.

(g) If new vehicles are to be sold, the make to be handled. Each new vehicle dealer shall send with the application for license a certification that the dealer holds a bona fide contract to act as factory representative, factory distributor, or distributor representative to sell at retail ..... (the make of vehicle to be sold).

(h) A statement of the previous history, record, and associations of the applicant and of each owner, partner, officer, and director. The statement shall be sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of the secretary of state the business reputation and character of the applicant.

(i) A statement showing whether the applicant has previously applied for a license, the result of the application, and whether the applicant has ever been the holder of a dealer license that was revoked or suspended.

(j) If the applicant is a corporation or partnership, a statement showing whether a partner, employee, officer, or director has been refused a license or has been the holder of a license that was revoked or suspended.

(k) If the application is for a used or secondhand vehicle parts dealer or an automotive recycler, it shall include all of the following:

(i) Evidence that the applicant maintains or will maintain an established place of business.

(ii) Evidence that the applicant maintains or will maintain a police book and vehicle parts purchase and sales and lease records as required under this act.

(iii) Evidence of worker's compensation insurance coverage for employees classified under the North American industrial classification system number 42114, entitled "motor vehicle parts (used) wholesalers" or under the national council on compensation insurance classification code number 3821, entitled "automobile dismantling and drivers", if applicable.

(l) Certification that neither the applicant nor another person named on the application is acting as the alter ego of any other person or persons in seeking the license. For the purpose of this subdivision, "alter ego" means a person who acts for and on behalf of, or in the place of, another person for purposes of obtaining a vehicle dealer license.

(7) A person shall apply separately for a dealer license for each county in which business is to be conducted. Before moving 1 or more of his or her places of business or opening an additional place of business, a dealer shall apply to the secretary of state for and obtain a supplemental dealer license, for which a fee shall not be charged. A supplemental dealer license shall be issued only for a location, including a tent, temporary stand, or any temporary quarters, that does not meet the definition of an established place of business, within the county in which the dealer's established place of business is located. A dealer license entitles the dealer to conduct the business of buying, selling, leasing, and dealing in vehicles or salvageable parts in the county covered by the license. The dealer license shall also entitle the dealer to conduct at any other licensed dealer's established place of business in this state only the business of buying, selling, leasing, or dealing in vehicles at wholesale.

(8) The secretary of state shall classify and differentiate vehicle dealers according to the type of activity they perform. A dealer shall not engage in activities of a particular classification as provided in this act unless the dealer is licensed in that classification. An applicant may apply for a dealer license in 1 or more of the following classifications:

(a) New vehicle dealer.

(b) Used or secondhand vehicle dealer.

(c) Used or secondhand vehicle parts dealer.

(d) Vehicle scrap metal processor.

(e) Vehicle salvage pool operator.

(f) Distressed vehicle transporter.

(g) Broker.

(h) Foreign salvage vehicle dealer.

(i) Automotive recycler.

(j) Beginning April 1, 2005, wholesaler.

(9) A dealer license expires on December 31 of the last year for which the license is issued. The secretary of state may renew a dealer license for a period of not more than 4 years upon application and payment of the fee required by section 807.

(10) A dealer may conduct the business of buying, selling, or dealing in motor homes, trailer coaches, trailers, or pickup campers at a recreational vehicle show conducted at a location in this state without obtaining a separate or supplemental license under subsection (7) if all of the following apply:

(a) The dealer is licensed as a new vehicle dealer or used or secondhand vehicle dealer.

(b) The duration of the recreational vehicle show is not more than 14 days.

(c) Not less than 14 days before the beginning date of the recreational vehicle show, the show producer notifies the secretary of state, in a manner and form prescribed by the secretary of state, that the recreational vehicle show is scheduled, the location, dates, and times of the recreational vehicle show, and the name, address, and dealer license number of each dealer participating in the recreational vehicle show.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1951, Act 270, Eff. Sept. 28, 1951;—Am. 1957, Act 281, Eff. Sept. 27, 1957;—Am. 1962, Act 166, Eff. Mar. 28, 1963;—Am. 1964, Act 166, Imd. Eff. Jan. 1, 1965;—Am. 1966, Act 216, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1970, Act 123, Imd. Eff. July 23, 1970;—Am. 1976, Act 439, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977;—Am. 1978, Act 507, Eff. July 1, 1979;—Am. 1980, Act 398, Eff. Mar. 31, 1981;—Am. 1988, Act 255, Eff. Oct. 1, 1989;—Am. 1992, Act 304, Imd. Eff. Dec. 21, 1992;—Am. 1993, Act 300, Eff. July 1, 1994;—Am. 1998, Act 384, Eff. Jan. 1, 1999;—Am. 1999, Act 172, Imd. Eff. Nov. 16, 1999;—Am. 2002, Act 642, Eff. Jan. 1, 2003;—Am. 2004, Act 495, Eff. Jan. 31, 2005.